

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 March 10, 2016

7:00 PM Council Chambers

Members Present: Jeff Goldknopf (Chair), Drew Kiefaber (Vice Chair), Andrea Sellers (Treasurer), Marianne Hannagan, Bruce Fecteau, Bob Gazda (Alternate), Patrick Reynolds (Alternate), Julia Sinclair (Alternate), Ezra Temko (Planning Board Rep), and Amy Burns (Town Council Rep - Ex-Officio).

Members Absent: Fred Pearson (excused)

Called to Order: 7:02 PM

Agenda Items:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

The Chair appointed **Bob Gazda** as a voting member for this meeting.

The Chair recognized **Drew Kiefaber**: "As many of you may know, Chris Schoppmeyer passed away on Feb. 27th and conservation lost an advocate and a promoter. Chris's career was based on conservation. He served our country working in the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He also served our state working in the NH Fish and Game Department. He served our community as a member and former chair of the Newmarket Conservation Commission. Chris was a co-founder of the Newmarket Fishing Derby, an event that brings our community together and also promotes exposure and interactions with the natural world. Please join me in a moment of silence in tribute to Chris Schoppmeyer."

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/christian-schoppmeyer-obituary?pid=1000000177900371>

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

With speakers present in the audience, the Chair asked to move the agenda forward to Old/New Business. There was no objection.

8. **Old/New Business**

Land Purchase to Honor Chris Schoppmeyer: The Chair recognized Mr. Richard Shelton, former Member, Chair, and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Commission (serving under the Chairmanship of Chris Schoppmeyer). Mr. Shelton introduced Mr. Dennis Abbott, long-time resident of Newmarket and former State Representative, to speak about Chris. Mr. Abbott spoke eloquently about the many contributions that Chris made to the town and community as a whole. He organized and served as a judge for the Wentworth By-The-Sea Striped Bass Tournament. He was involved in the acquisition of the Tuttle Swamp and Herron Point properties. These are just a few of his many accomplishments. Mr. Shelton received a phone call from an individual who wishes to anonymously donate \$50,000 to secure a parcel of land to place in conservation and name after Chris Schoppmeyer. A condition of the gift requires that the town raise an additional \$50,000 and, once accomplished, the anonymous donor would contribute an additional \$50,000. \$150,000 would be available for the purchase of the land. Mr. Shelton mentioned that a committee of interested people are

ready to begin the fund raising and have even selected a suitable piece of land. Mr. Shelton requests input and support from the CC to continue this worthy project to honor Chris. He would like members from the CC to serve on this fund raising committee. **Marianne Hannagan** and **Jeff Goldknopf** were appointed to represent the CC on this committee.

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Conservation Commission support the efforts of this committee to raise funds to acquire a piece of property in Chris Schoppmeyer's memory. This property will be placed in conservation and will be managed by the Conservation Commission.

Second: **Bruce Fecteau**

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

Piscassic-Loiselle & Schanda Park Kiosks –Preston Samuel (LRAC): Mr. Preston Samuel, from LRAC, has joined the meeting tonight to introduce Mr. Kevin Martin to the CC. Mr. Samuel is standing in this evening for Dick Lord who is the project manager for this action. Mr. Martin comes highly recommended and has submitted an estimate to the Chair for constructing the two new kiosks for Piscassic-Loiselle and Schanda Park. Mr. Martin has given the CC an estimate of approximately \$1528 per kiosk (accounting for his labor and volunteer labor). His preferred choice of wood for the posts is locust because it will last a very long time. He notes that locust is often a difficult wood to find, so an alternate may need to be considered. Pressure treated posts of Southern yellow pine or douglas fir could last 40+ years in the ground. The treatment for the wood is now considered 'environmentally friendly'. The DPW Director has agreed to provide a crew to dig the post holes during week days.

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the Conservation Commission expend up to \$3,500 for the construction of two kiosks by Mr. Kevin Martin, one at Schanda Park and one at Piscassic-Loiselle. The project shall be completed no later than June 30, 2016.

Second: **Andrea Sellers**

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

Mr. Martin stated that, if he gets started now, the kiosks could be completed by the end of April or early May. He will begin with the posts in his workshop and then move to site installation. He hopes that he can get up to 17 hours of volunteer help and will be back in touch to set up time for the helpers. Mr. Samuel has agreed that LRAC will contribute \$1,750 toward the total cost of construction and will send the CC a check as soon as possible. **Patrick Reynolds** asked Mr. Samuel about the Piscassic River boat ramp kiosk at Twin Rivers. Mr. Preston recently visited the site and the kiosk appeared 'healthy', but there are several metal signs that might go into the existing kiosk to 'unclutter' the area.

Lamprey River Foot Path: Mr. Preston recently spoke to the Town Planner, Diane Hardy, about extending the sidewalk out Bay Road to the mobile home park in order to access Herron Point. He also asked her about extending the sidewalks out Packers Falls Road. He believes that both of these would help open up recreational opportunities. He would like the CC to discuss this, and if they see merit in these suggestions, he requests that they speak with the Town Planner.

Elm Street/Main Street Canoe Portage Easement: LRAC would like to see this easement improved so that someone could actually execute a canoe portage. The slope is currently very dangerous and LRAC would like to improve this area. Mr. Preston requested an estimate for mortared steps: the cost would be prohibitive at \$25,000. They are now looking at organizing a volunteer project using log crib, filled with rubble stone, and covered with chips. LRAC is keenly interested in getting this project done and will return with a more detailed plan later.

Newmarket Recreation Department Kayak Event & Kayak Storage at Schanda Park – Seven Rivers Paddling

Owner, Peter Sawtelle: Mr. Jim Hilton, the Recreation Director, and Ms. Aimee Gigandet, Assistant Director, were unable to attend this evening. **Amy Burns** reported on the recent meeting for the planning of the Kayak Event. A representative of LRAC attended that organizational meeting and indicated that they would be able to help fund, through their grant program, the planning of a kayak storage facility. Ms. Gigandet would be writing the grant to LRAC which must be submitted by the end of March. She sent along some photos of possible locations on conservation land to place this facility (approximately 16' X 20' X 12'). Peter Sawtelle, owner of Seven Rivers Paddling, spoke about his discussion with Ms. Gigandet to possibly partner with the town on a facility and staffing that facility with his staff daily to enable easy access to kayaking for people in the town. There was considerable discussion among the members about this suggestion. The Chair indicated that the CC would need to review the original management plans for conservation of Schanda Park to determine if such a facility meets the original goals. Mr. Samuel indicated that LRAC has a grant from the National Park Service to fund planning (not construction) and suggested that a grant to hire a planner to look at opportunities for placement of a facility to be located between the dam to down river toward the lower narrows. Once a plan is created, the Recreation Department would be welcome to return to the CC for further discussion. The CC has determined to take no action this evening. The CC thanked both Mr. Preston Samuel and Mr. Peter Sawtelle for attending the meeting this evening.

The meeting returned to the agenda.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

February 11, 2016:

Action

Motion: **Drew Kiefaber** moved that the minutes of February 11, 2016 be approved as drafted.

Second: **Jeff Goldknopf**

Vote: Approved 5-0-2

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer **Andrea Sellers** reported that the invoice for the Bald Hill current use change was paid and the check was deposited (\$17,750.00) on February 12. A check for one rain barrel was also deposited.

6. **Committee and Subcommittee Reports**

Town Council Representative: **Amy Burns** had nothing to report.

Planning Board Presentative: **Ezra Temko** asked that CC members to share their thoughts for supporting the PB to look into the sidewalks on Bay Road and Packers Falls Road. Several members felt that sidewalks on Bay Road to help access Herron Point sounded more important than Packers Fall Road. **Patrick Reynolds** would like to suggest, since most of our conservation properties lie along Grant Road, that the PB look at available funds for sidewalks on Grant Road. **Jeff Goldknopf** received plans from Diane Hardy just before the meeting regarding a proposed subdivision on Grant Road. This subdivision would abut the Dearborn property that we are currently planning to accept as a gift from Charlie Dearborn's estate. She is requesting that the CC provide input on the plans. The Chair did not have the opportunity to distribute the plans, but he will do soon. The Chair's realized that the prime wetlands were not noted on the plans. **Ezra Temko** will pass member comments along at the next meeting of the planning board on March 15, so CC members are encouraged to review the plans and, once received/reviewed, email him before the meeting.

7. Chairman's Report

Lubberland Creek Culvert Replacement Check Request: The Chair has received the anticipated request from the Nature Conservancy for a \$10,000 check to cover a portion of the engineering study for the Lubberland Creek Culvert. He submitted the check request for payment.

8. Old/New Business (continued)

Conservation Commission Annual Scholarship: Bruce Fecteau reported that it is time for the applications to be distributed to the school and town.

Action

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved the CC authorize the expenditure of \$1,000 for the annual Conservation Commission Scholarship to be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Newmarket and plans to major in an environmental/conservation related major in college.

Second: **Andrea Sellers**

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

Bruce Fecteau will forward the letter and application to the Chair to reformat. Copies will be distributed to Pauline LaBranche, Guidance Administrative Assistant, at the high school.

Wiggin Farm –Tuttle Swamp Management Plan Addendum: The Chair met with Ellen Snyder to provide her with all the documents from the cabinets in the town office to help her update the management plan. She is still in the initial information gathering stage.

Wiggin Farm Boundary Maintenance: The Chair spoke with Rick Malasky and he would like to place the boulders as soon as possible along the boundary line. **Drew Kiefaber** will reach out to the surveyor who expressed interest in the project to set up a time for the boundary line to be surveyed. The CC would like the project completed by the end of April.

Invasive Species Removal: **Andrea Sellers** brought up the annual spring removal. **Patrick Reynolds** has submitted the project to Liberty Mutual and it was accepted. The project has to be planned for a weekday and must be supervised. The work crew will do this work in May. By the next meeting, we need to have a project or projects in mind. They are available for 5 days, 7-8 hours per day. The CC will discuss this at the next meeting.

Dearborn Property: The estate is expected to close sometime in March. At the next meeting, the CC will discuss getting an RFP prepared to survey the property.

Schanda Park Usage Application: **Drew Kiefaber** received an application from LOCO Sports, LLC for the use of Schanda Park for the annual Great Bay Half Marathon celebration on April 10, 2016.

Action

Motion: **Bruce Fecteau** moved that the CC approved the application from LOCO Sports, LLC to hold the post-race celebration for the Great Bay Half Marathon at Schanda Park on April 10, 2016.

Second: **Drew Kiefaber**

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

LOCO Sports has been a very good partner with the town and they always see that the park is left in pristine condition. More information on the race may be found at: <http://greatbayhalf.com/>

Field Trip Funding for Newmarket Schools: Drew Kiefaber will look for the correspondence and report back.
Recreation Department Kayak Event: Amy Burns reported that the next meeting to continue planning the kayak event will be held on April 11 at 6:00 pm at the Recreation Center. She encourages members of the CC to attend. The event is now being planned for August 27 when the tides are favorable.

9. **Adjournment**

Action

Motion: **Jeff Goldknopf** moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: **Drew Kiefaber**

Vote: Approved 7-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Frick, Recording Secretary